

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 22, 2004

The Honorable Rod Paige  
Secretary  
Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary Paige:

We are writing to express our serious concern about the Department of Education's decision to prohibit Chicago Public Schools (CPS) from providing direct tutoring services for students. Discontinuing supplemental education services (SES) provided by CPS would cut services for more than 50,000 children who depend on CPS tutoring to supplement their education. We believe it is particularly egregious that these students' tutoring will be interrupted in the middle of the school year.

As you know, the No Child Left Behind law does not prohibit districts in need of improvement from serving as supplemental service providers, and the Department's decision to require that private vendors provide all tutoring services for CPS students is a tremendous misuse of resources. Many of the same teachers who tutor within CPS are often hired by private vendors at a cost of about four times as much per student – meaning far fewer students will actually benefit from these services as a result of the Department's action.

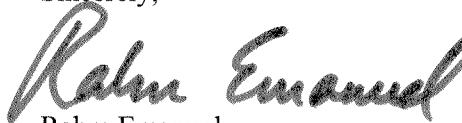
If the Department forces CPS to cease providing SES, approximately 80,000 students will have their tutoring interrupted mid-year, as many as 56,000 may lose their tutoring services entirely, and many students who rely on CPS tutoring will be unable to access these much-needed services.

Finally, we oppose the double standard that the Department would be setting by exempting SES providers from serving students with disabilities or who are limited English proficient (LEP), while continuing to require CPS to provide supplemental services to these students, even if barred from serving other non-disabled and non-LEP students. This is not the message we should be sending to these students and their parents. We strongly urge you to reconsider the Department's policy toward supplemental education services and its decision to exclude CPS tutors from providing these critically needed services for Chicago children. Thank you for your attention to this request.

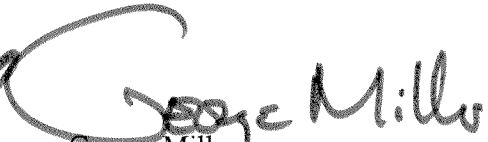
Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin  
Senator



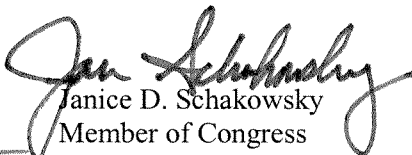
Rahm Emanuel  
Member of Congress



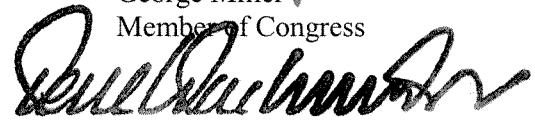
George Miller  
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



Janice D. Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



Jesse Jackson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Luis V. Gutierrez  
Member of Congress



Bobby Rush  
Member of Congress